

PRICE TEN CENTS

The New York Times

MID-WEEK PICTORIAL



FIELD SERVICES FOR A SHATTERED RUSSIAN REGIMENT.
This regiment, which was decorated with the Cross of St. George for its
bravery, lost one-half of its officers and men in thirteen days of fighting.

(Aquatint rendering by R. T. Willis, from a photograph.)

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The Situation (Week ending February 14, 1916)

FRANCE has again been forced to the centre of the stage in the vast war drama. The outstanding feature of the week was the desperate attempt of the Germans to recapture the positions in the Artois region taken by the French last September. The fighting along the Arras-La Bassée front, notably around Vimy and Lens, is described as the fiercest yet known on the western front. The losses of the Germans in these drives were estimated at 60,000 men, or 5 per cent. of their total forces on that front. To these figures must be added other heavy losses incurred on the 12th, when they made five assaults on Hill 140 under intense fire.

For all this expenditure of lives the Germans have little or nothing to show in the way of gains. No sooner have they taken a line of trenches than the French have recaptured it. In the Champagne region, at latest accounts, they had taken and held 700 yards of trenches near Ste. Marie-a-Py, and were holding them; but in the northern sector, around Vimy and Hill 140, where the main offensive has been concentrated, their sacrifices have thus far been unavailing, and their most determined advances have withered under the French "curtain of fire."

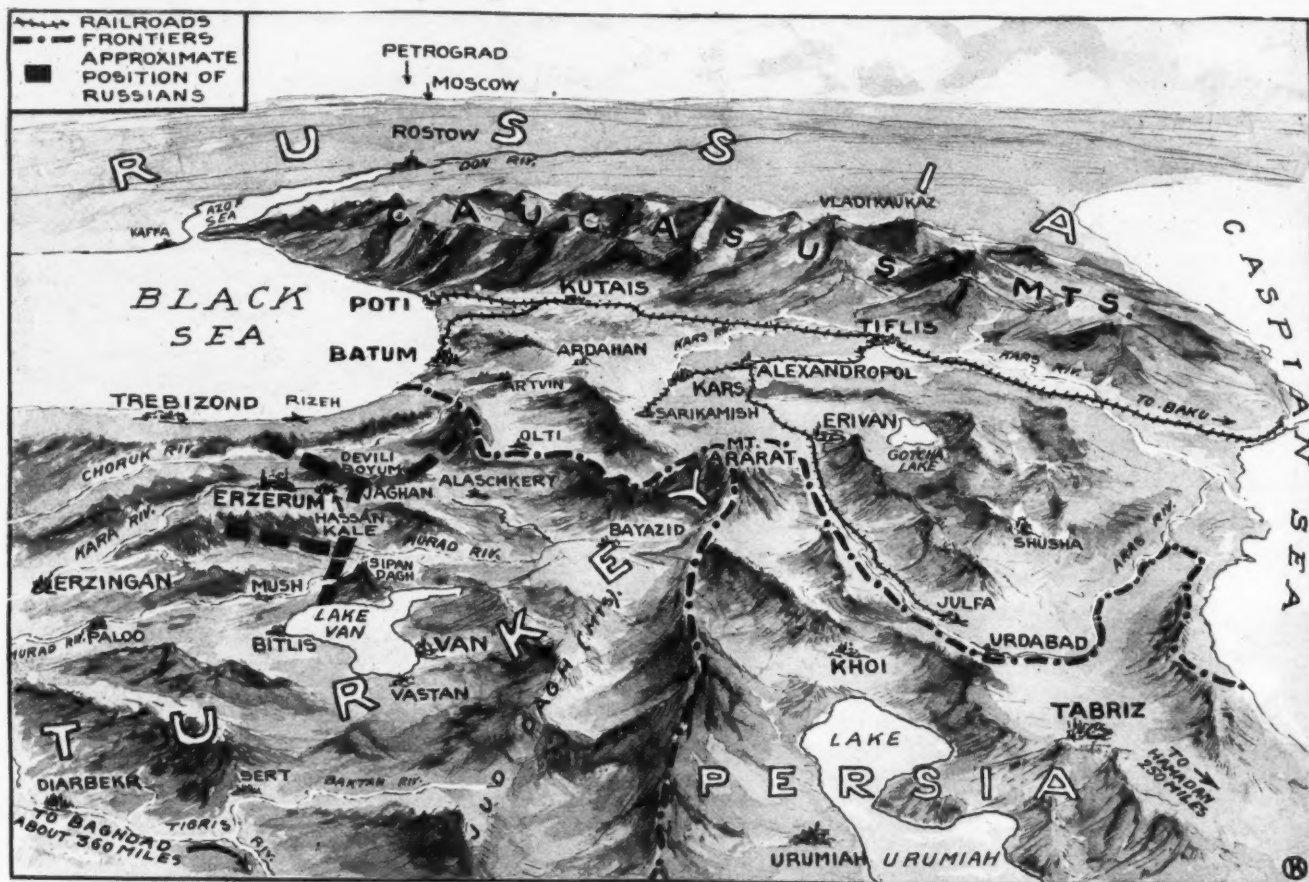
The strategic value of the positions thus bitterly contested lies in the fact that they are situated along a range of hills. The Germans have been pushed to the eastern edge of the range, and the French, by occupying the heights, command some of the most important German lines of communication, making the position dangerous and intolerable. If the present German offensive fails it will leave the advantage with the French and British.

In Albania the week has brought the first skirmishes between the Italian expedition at Durazzo and the Austrian force advancing to drive it out, but without decisive results.

A new Russian offensive on the Galician front has developed during the week, with fierce and successful fighting for a certain hill in the Tsebroff region—and with heavy losses on both sides. Czernowitz, the capital of Bukovina, is again threatened by a Russian advance near Raranche. By crossing the Dniester and taking Usoiczko the Russians have cut an important line of communication between the armies of Generals Pflanzer and von Bothmer. The Russians also continue to hold their gain near Dvinsk in the face of fierce German gas and artillery attacks. Their new activity will prevent the shifting of any large German forces from this region to the western front. It indicates a closer co-operation of the Entente Allies than in the past.

News from the Asiatic fronts is meagre, but so far as any change has taken place it is in favor of the Russians. The army near Erzerum has continued its victorious progress despite deep snows and low temperatures. The British expeditions on the Tigris are still besieged, but appear to be holding their ground and waiting for better weather conditions—or for aid from the Russians to the north of them.

The Russian Campaign South of the Caucasus Mountains.



The region around Erzerum where Turco-German and Russian armies are contending.

OF ALL the military deterrents, both potential and active, which the Allies are using in the hope of preventing a second attack on Egypt or of diverting the Turco-German force launched against it—the Italians in Albania, the Franco-English force at Saloniki, the Anglo-Indian army on the Tigris, and the Russian columns in Persia and Armenia—the most remote, isolated, yet fascinating, is the Russian invasion of Armenia with the capture of Erzerum as its objective.

Although Erzerum is the most eastern fortress of Turkey in Asia, no railways connect it with Constantinople, 750 miles to the west, and merely a cart road leads 120 miles north to its port on the Black Sea called Trebizond. Only sixty miles to the east is the frontier of Caucasus, yet the obstacles to an attack from this direction quite balance the lack of means of reinforcement from the other. The protection of this back door to Turkey devolves upon the Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Army Corps, recently reinforced by the First, which was sent thither after the evacuation of Gallipoli by the Allies in December. The invading Russians are in ten columns, each flanked by strong bodies of Cossacks.

Erzerum, which means "the fortress of Rome," was famous in the days when the Eternal City or Byzantium was watch and ward over the territory from the Euphrates to the Atlantic. It fell before the blows of Islam in the Thirteenth century and, save for a few months in 1877, when Russia occupied the city—only to return it at the Congress of Berlin—Turkish sentinels have ever since kept guard on its ramparts.

When in September last the Russian Grand Duke Nicholas began his reorganization of the Army of the Caucasus, he found it intrenched at isolated points along the frontier, where the Turkish offensive had left it in December, 1914, and occupying a few outposts in the Russian sphere of Persia in the Southeast.

Almost simultaneously with the evacuation of Gallipoli the Russian advance on Erzerum began. The Turkish defense had been well planned. The Eleventh Corps was, upon being attacked, to withdraw north of Erzerum, where the city is protected by a range of hills known as the Develi Boyun, or "camel's neck," and behind which were stationed the Ninth and Tenth Corps, which were, at the right moment, to cut in between the Russians and their frontier. But the Russians put their

Cossacks forward so rapidly that this was impossible. The Eleventh Corps had to retreat into the city itself in order to escape capture, while the Ninth and Tenth Corps were rushed to the south of the city to prevent a Russian attack from the easy approaches in that quarter. Here, ten miles from Erzerum, at the beginning of the month, two of the Russian columns intercepted the First Army Corps coming as reinforcements, and prevented it from joining the main Turkish Army.

Their whole plan of campaign is in the hands of the German field marshal, von der Goltz, while another German field marshal, Limon von Sanders, is in charge of the operations in the field. With the First Turkish Army Corps, which is trying to reach Erzerum, are said to be between 10,000 and 20,000 German troops.

This was the situation at the beginning of the week. In order to understand what are likely to be the next steps in the campaign it is necessary to appreciate not only the nature of the Armenian plateau of which Erzerum is the fortress city, 6,600 feet above the level of the sea, but also the nature of the land over which the new Russian Army has come and through which it has retreated several times.

The worst part of the Russians' march is in their own territory, north of the peaks of the Caucasus, which, resembling nothing so much as the Himalayas, run east and west from the Black Sea to the Caspian. These mountains form the strongest barrier in the world and, although Russia has for centuries held large tracts of territory south of them, to this day they are pierced by only one highway, the Georgian Road, which threads its way through the famous Gorge of Dariel, 5,000 feet deep, called by the Romans the Caucasian Gates. There is, to be sure, a single track railway between European Russia and Trans-Caucasia, but it is east of the range along the shores of the Caspian Sea. By this single line must come all the heavy freight for the support of the Russian Army before Erzerum.

South of the range and parallel to it is a railway running from Batum on the Black Sea to Baku on the Caspian. It passes through Tiflis, the capital of the Caucasus, thence a branch diverges to the Russian fortress of Kars, while another goes on to Sarikamish. From the terminals of Kars and Sarikamish to the very foot of the Erzerum Plateau

the land presents the characteristics of Switzerland, and only in the vicinity of Erzerum can very large forces be sufficiently deployed so as to form a genuine battle front. All else in Armenia is a tangle of mountains, sentinelled by Mount Ararat—17,000 feet high and fifty miles east of Erzerum—and among which are dreary plateaus and deep, fertile valleys. To penetrate this country and to keep up lines of communication must have taxed the genius of the Russian engineers.

Erzerum sits astride the remote western branch of the Euphrates, and with its great system of forts forms the key to Turkish Armenia. Its naturally strong position is surrounded by mountains on every side but the south.

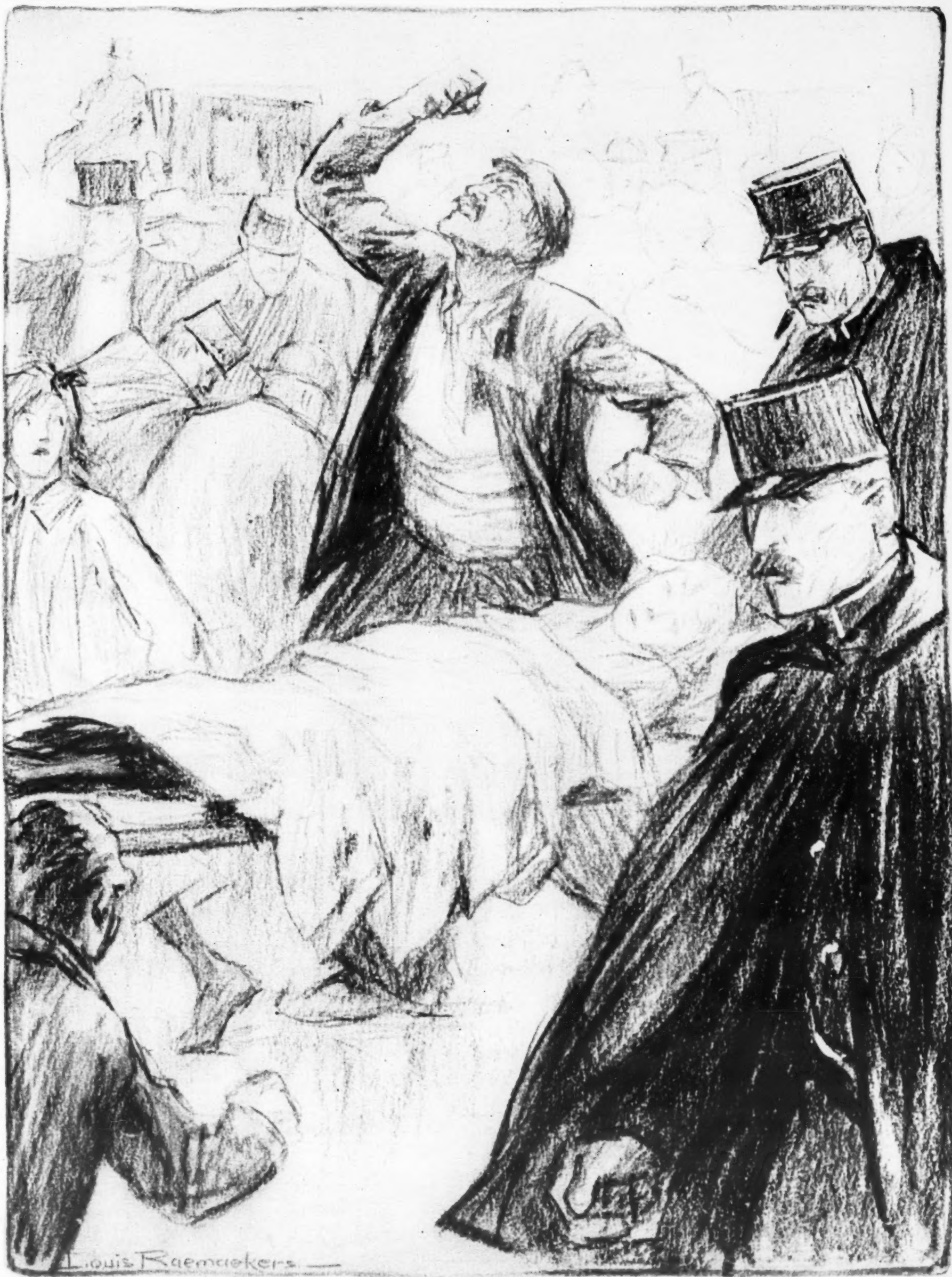
The Turkish Eleventh Corps, beaten first at Lake Tortum, in order to reach Erzerum had to traverse mountain paths deep in snow and in an average temperature of 22 degrees. How the Russian columns managed to make their extraordinary march is unknown. No doubt the advance was pressed along various tracks which converge on the city, but the main army must have all come through the Kars-Erzerum highway and then deployed and separated.

Erzerum, aside from its circle of forts, is protected by two advance positions, Hassan Kale, which lies at the entrance to the plain, and Develi Boyun, or the Camel's Neck, already mentioned.

Owing to the lack of transportation facilities there would be little chance of retreat for the Turks and the two German field marshals in case the city should fall and the army operating south of it meet with a signal defeat. But where would these eventualities leave the Russians? They would be at the terminal of several caravan routes leading north to Trebizond, west to Constantinople, and south into Syria and Persia—all to remote objectives.

Hence if Erzerum is to perform a service to the Allies as a deterrent to an attack on Egypt the Russian siege of the place must not be hastened, but so conducted as to draw to its defense as many troops as possible from European Turkey, yet not in sufficient numbers seriously to menace the invaders. For even with the capture of Erzerum and the annihilation of its defending armies a Russian march on Constantinople can hardly be thought of as a serious military proposition. A descent of the Euphrates with the idea of relieving the pressure on the Anglo-Indian force on the Tigris is about as unthinkable.

The Death That Flies!



One of Louis Raemaekers's strongest cartoons—the poignant presentation of the death of a civilian from an air bomb. Other cartoons by the famous Dutch artist will be found on the next page; and still others will be published in the issues to follow.



Death's War Toll as Seen by Cartoonist Louis Raemaekers



Death Engages Germania in a Dance of Exhaustion.
From west to east, from east to west, the dance never stops!

(Ulster Raemaekers Cartoons Nazi Week)



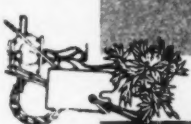
After a Year of War Bernhardi and Death Exchange Felicitations.
"Have not we surpassed your boldest expectations?"

From German and Austrian Points of View



Five Hundred Years of Hohenzollern (1415-1915).
Gentle in peace and firm in war—this was ever your clan's desire!
Now, God be praised, these troubled days find YOU in charge, great Sire!

(47) *Lausige Blätter* (Berlin).



AUSTRIA'S RETORT.—Baron Burian to Uncle Sam: "The answer to your note was written a century ago." (Turning to his valet. "Bring me the book on "How to Behave in Good Society."")
—*Muskette*, (Vienna.) © Universal Press Syndicate.

An Italian Charge---and Austrian Prisoners



Italian offensive in the Isonzo, showing the Italian method of charging in small columns of about 25 men each; this advance is against an Austrian battery to the right on the same hill.

(Photo from Underwood & Underwood.)



5,000 Austrian prisoners on their way to an Italian concentration camp.

(Photo from Paul Thompson.)

Steep Is the Path to Italian Glory!



A company of men labor to draw a heavy gun to its position on an Italian peak overlooking a valley which needs guarding.

(Medem Photo Service.)

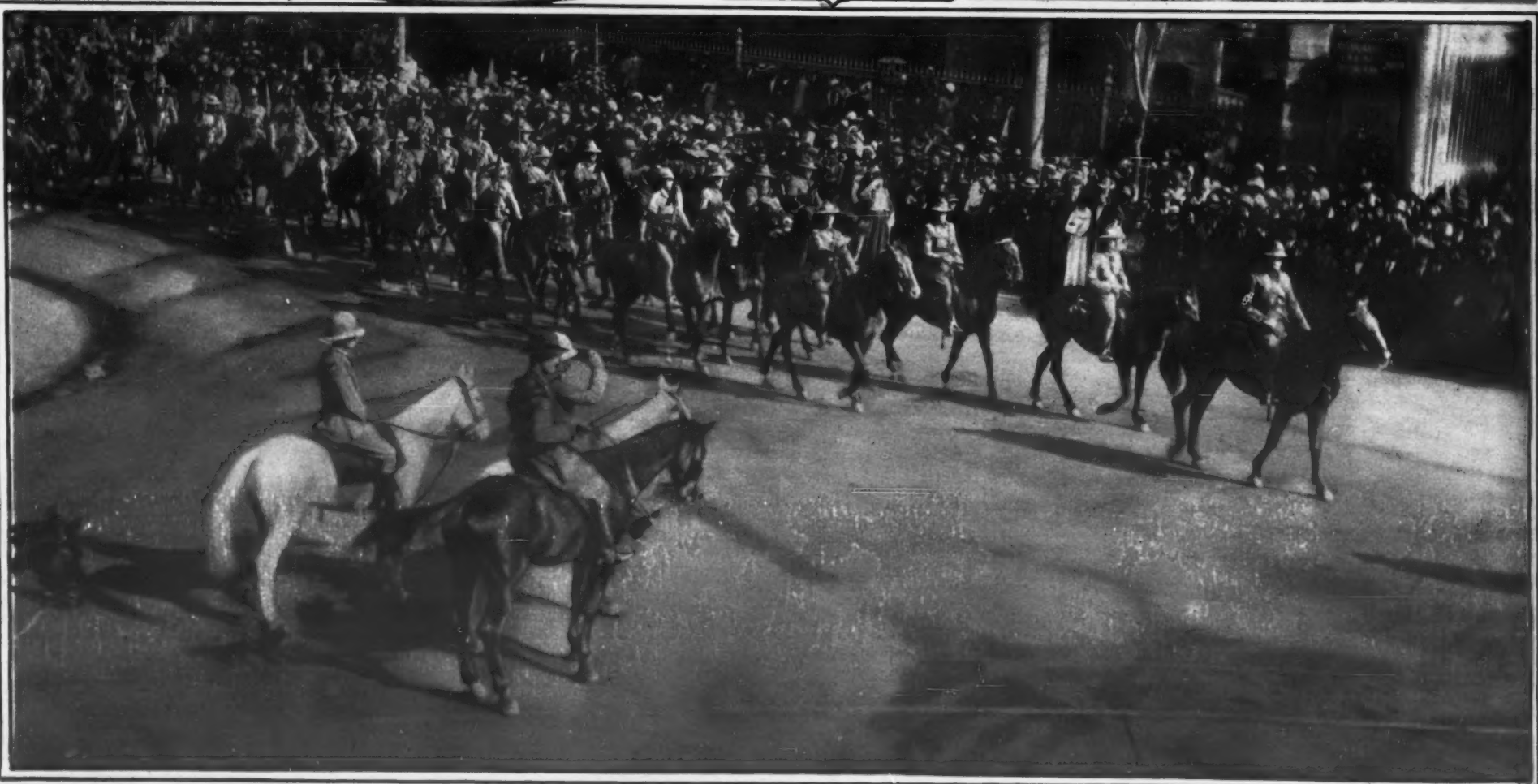


A field
kitchen in
the French
camp at
Victoria,
near
Alexandria,
Egypt.



Arrival at Cairo of
Sir Henry MacMahon,
High Commissioner for
Egypt.

The British Prepare



New Zealand Mounted Rifles saluting General Sir John Maxwell, the Commander in Chief, as they pass before him in review.



Senegalese troops who have de-trained at the railway station at San Stefano, near Alexandria.

(Photographs from Underwood & Underwood.)

for Attack on Suez



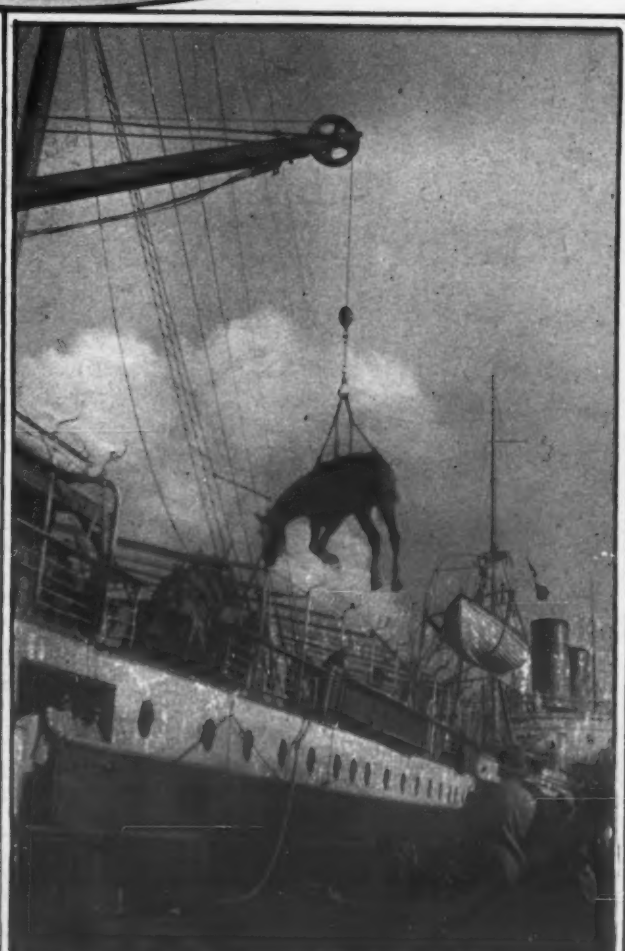
Movement of army ambulances from New Zealand from one Nile camp to another.



A group of Maori men in the camp of the New Zealanders; they are about to give a native dance.



A review in the camp at Zetun; the officers are, left to right, General Sir Alexander Godley, Sir Henry MacMahon, and General Sir John Maxwell.



On the docks at Alexandria; food and supplies for the French and British.

Colonials from Canada and New South Wales



A division of field artillery passing in review before the Australian Governor General, Sir R. C. Munro-Ferguson, in Sydney.
(Photos from Underwood & Underwood.)



(In circle.) Lieutenant Edmund Burke, the Irish baritone, who is recruiting a regiment of Irish Canadians in Ottawa.

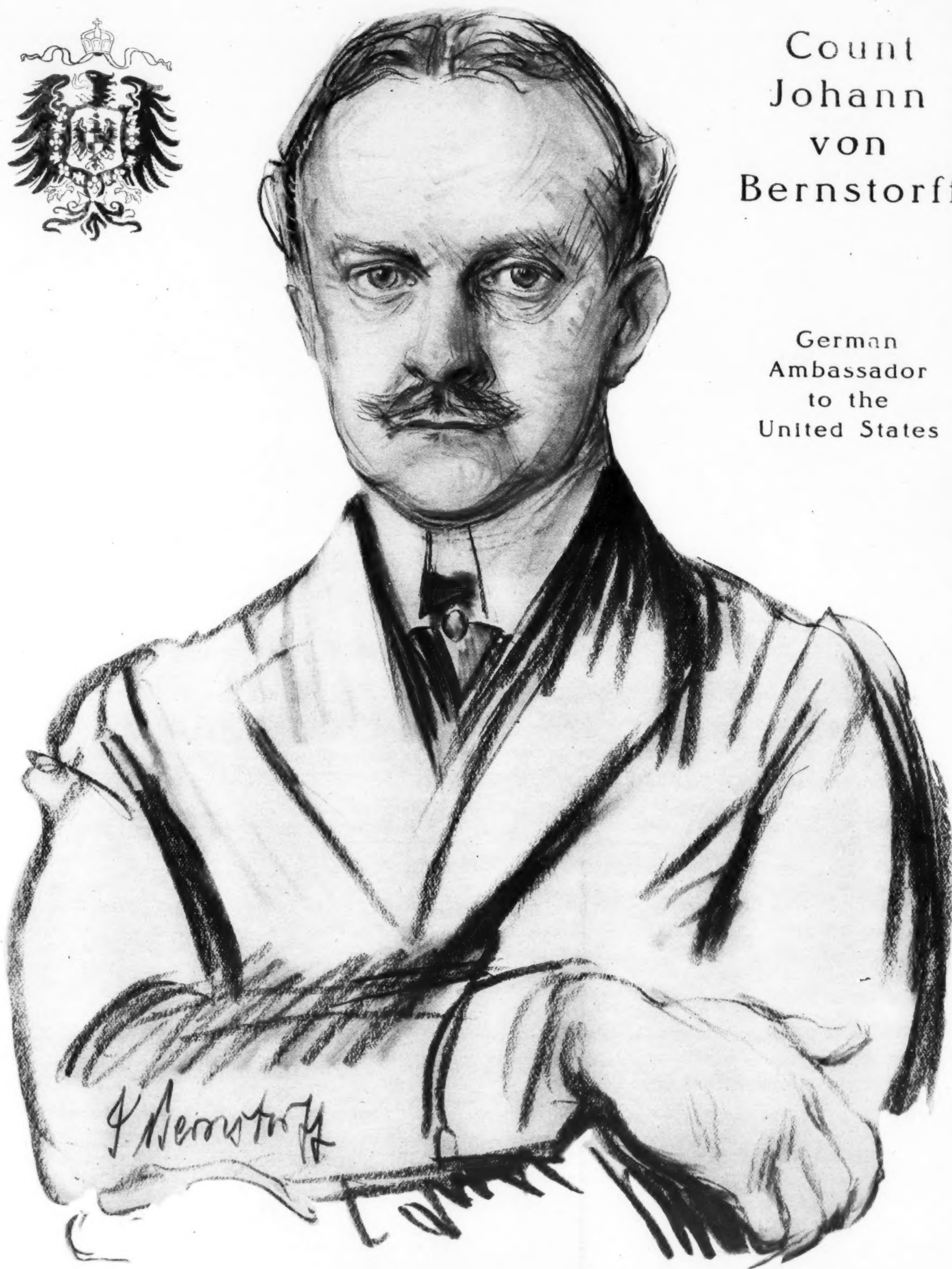
Canadian troops in the trenches in France; they are used to the bitter cold of the Canadian plains, and do not mind the snow.

(In circle.) Lieut. Col. Lablatt, who is organizing in Toronto an American Legion of 1,100 United States citizens for active service.



Count
Johann
von
Bernstorff

German
Ambassador
to the
United States

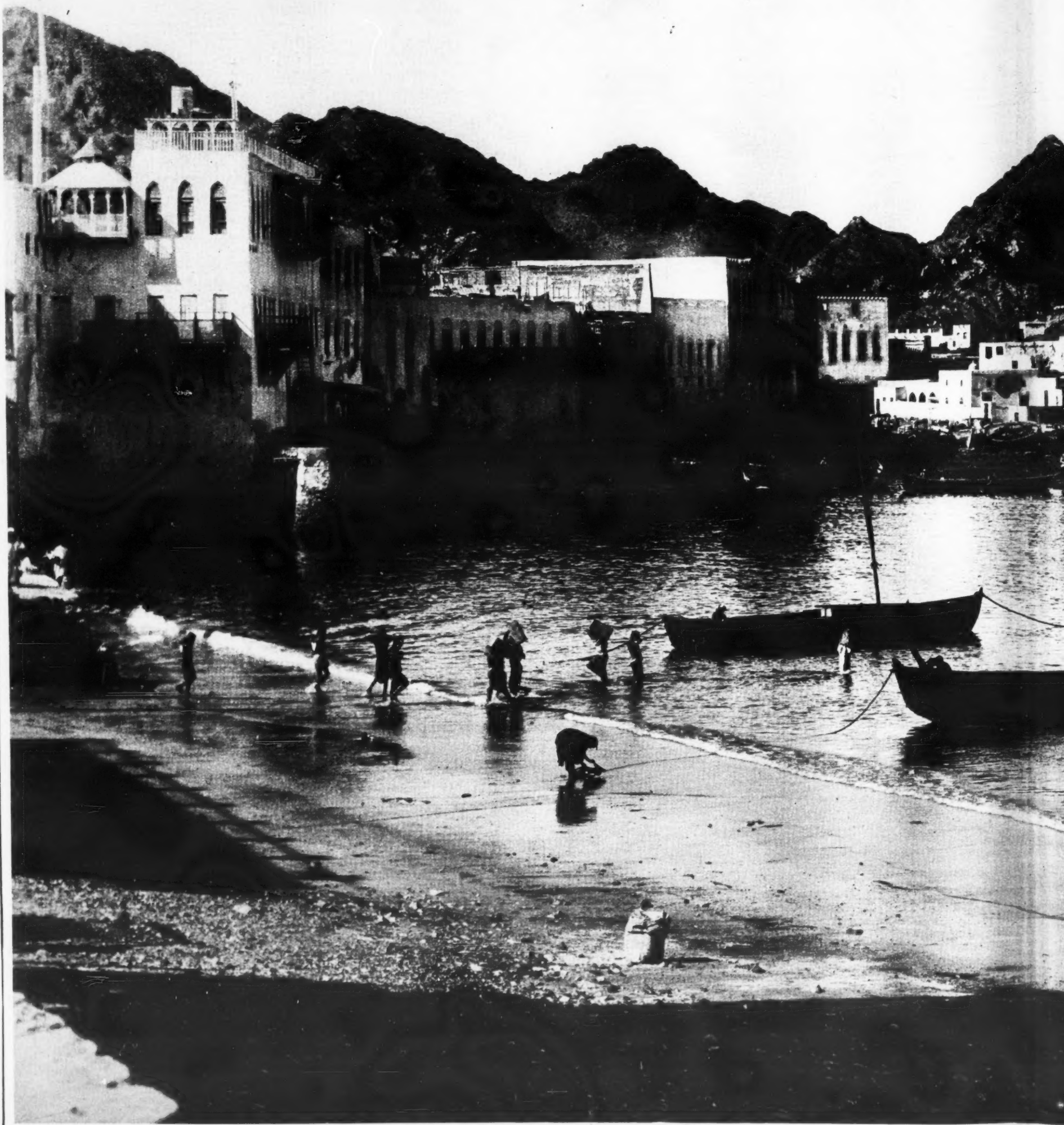


Count von Bernstorff again has become especially conspicuous before the American public in consequence of his activities in relation to the amicable settlement of the controversy growing out of Lusitania case.

For the above drawing Ambassador von Bernstorff posed at the German Embassy in Washington to E. S. Klempner, special artist of The New York Times Mid-Week Pictorial.



Washed by the Waters of the



FORTRESS ON THE SHORE OF THE BAY OF MUSCAT, GU

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 17, 1916



he War-Encircled Persian Gulf



MUSCAT, GUARDING THE ENTRANCE TO THE GULF OF PERSIA.



Youths of France Rally to Her Call!



Mere youths, the French class of '17 enthusiastically departs from Paris to take its place on the fighting lines.



Young French Colonials—boys from Indo-China—arrive in France to fight for their country. The cold weather is not to their liking.
(Press Illustrating Co.)

In the Thick of the Souchez Fight



This photograph, taken under cover of the wall behind which a small group of Frenchmen was making a stand in the house-to-house fighting at Souchez, was made by a French stretcher-bearer during the hottest part of the fight.

Keeping Headquarters in Touch With the Front



German telephone operators establish a temporary station under guard. In the background is a German Army field telephone corps at work.



(At left.) A German central exchange station on the French front, situated between the trenches and the division headquarters in the rear.



German Army electricians establishing telephone lines to the actual fighting front.

(Photos from Underwood & Underwood.)

With the German "Ice-Bears" in Russia



Officers issuing instructions to the men, who are splendidly clothed to withstand the temperature of a Russian Winter.



On leave—and out for fun in a Russian cart!



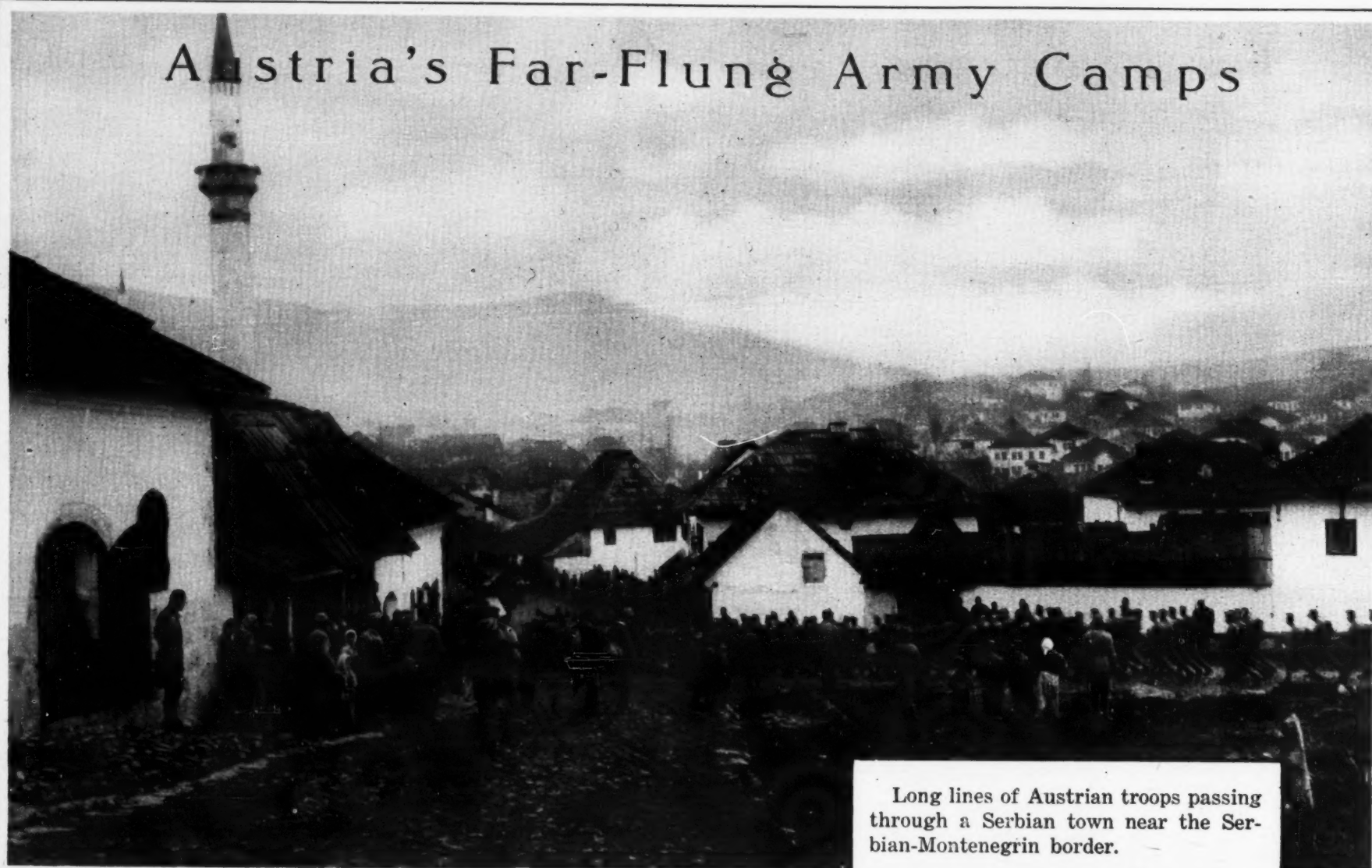
The "ice-bears" on patrol; their outer coats are snow-white.



"Ice-bear" drivers of a transport column, relieved from duty, are here on the way to their quarters.

(Photos from Underwood & Underwood.)

Austria's Far-Flung Army Camps



Long lines of Austrian troops passing through a Serbian town near the Serbian-Montenegrin border.



An Austrian camp in Russia, across the Galician border. Here are collected reserve horses required by the Austrian cavalry.

(Photos from
Underwood & Underwood.)



An Austrian transport column encounters difficult going on a road along the Italian frontier, where the Winter weather has all but stopped army movements.

Pressing Onward Behind the Retreating Serbians



Austrian troops in slow advance through Balkan valleys and ravines where the Serbian Army has already passed before them.
(Photo from Underwood & Underwood.)

War's Footsteps Follow the Camel Paths

By Charles Johnston

HUCKLEBERRY FINN once scored tremendously off Tom Sawyer over the question whether Indiana was pink. We are under exactly the same illusion as regards the eastern battlefield which stretches from the shore of the Black Sea near Trebizond to Hamadan and Sultanabad in Western Persia; just because the Persian and Turkish realms are differently colored on our maps, we think of the Persian operations as detached from the fighting about Erzerum. In reality they are the two wings of a closely co-ordinated movement, a movement which reflects the greatest credit on the reorganized Russian General Staff and army; a movement which may do what the Gallipoli adventure so signally failed to do: open the door to Constantinople.

Though appearing so distinct on the map, the two regions—the Armenian about Erzerum and the Persian about Sultanabad—are really physically continuous; they are both parts of the high Armenian plateau which stretches along the south wall of the Elburz Mountains, from Asia Minor well into Persia. To compare the unfamiliar with the well known, this Armenian plateau is for the most part about 6,000 feet above sea level, some thousand feet, that is, higher than the ranching country between Denver and the Rockies; and, just as the big hills

An Armenian type from the country around Erzerum.



trade; long caravans of camels tracking along the road from Trebizond to Erzerum, and thence southwestward across the Armenian plateau to Khoi, and to Tabriz in Western Persia. Another of these immensely ancient roads runs south from Erzerum to Bitlis and Mosul, and thence right down the Tigris Valley to Bagdad, which was the very heart of the Arabian Nights adventures.

Erzerum has, in normal times, some 40,000 to 50,000 inhabitants; so that the reported influx of 100,000 Turks retreating before the advancing Russians means that there are more than twice as many Turkish or Kurdish troops now in the city as the total number of civilian inhabitants.

There are fortifications all around Erzerum, and notably along the ridge called "the Camel's Neck" to the east of the town, but we are told that a swift onslaught of Cossack horsemen on their hardy Winter-loving ponies has already swept around the town, and practically completed its investment. Indeed, in this Armenian-Persian battlefield, and here only, the war seems to be developing the mobility we used to see in military movements before the present age of "digging in."

The lay of the roads largely explains the importance of these Armenian operations. One road runs south to Bagdad; the occupation of this will probably mean the relief of General Town-



Bedouins of the Persian Gulf region; fine horsemen, but poor shots.

rise up on the skyline west of Denver, so, from the Armenian plateau, rise ridges of hills, for the most part about 10,000 feet high, but with many summits running up as high as Pike's Peak.

But as compared with the Rocky Mountain region the Armenian plateau is much easier to traverse, whether for armed forces or in the ordinary way of trade. So that, topographically at least, there has been no great impediment in the way of the advance of the new Russian armies; just as there are no very formidable barriers in the way of the Turks, except those imposed by the Russian armies. But for these

armies the Turks would have invaded the Russian Caucasus long ago and taken possession of the historic City of Tiflis. And the Gallipoli adventure finds its chief justification in this, that it helped to draw off a Turkish army bent on invading the Russian Caucasus, just as the disastrous battle of Tannenberg and Rennenkampf's raid into East Prussia helped, at a most critical moment, to lessen the pressure of von Kluck's forces toward Paris.

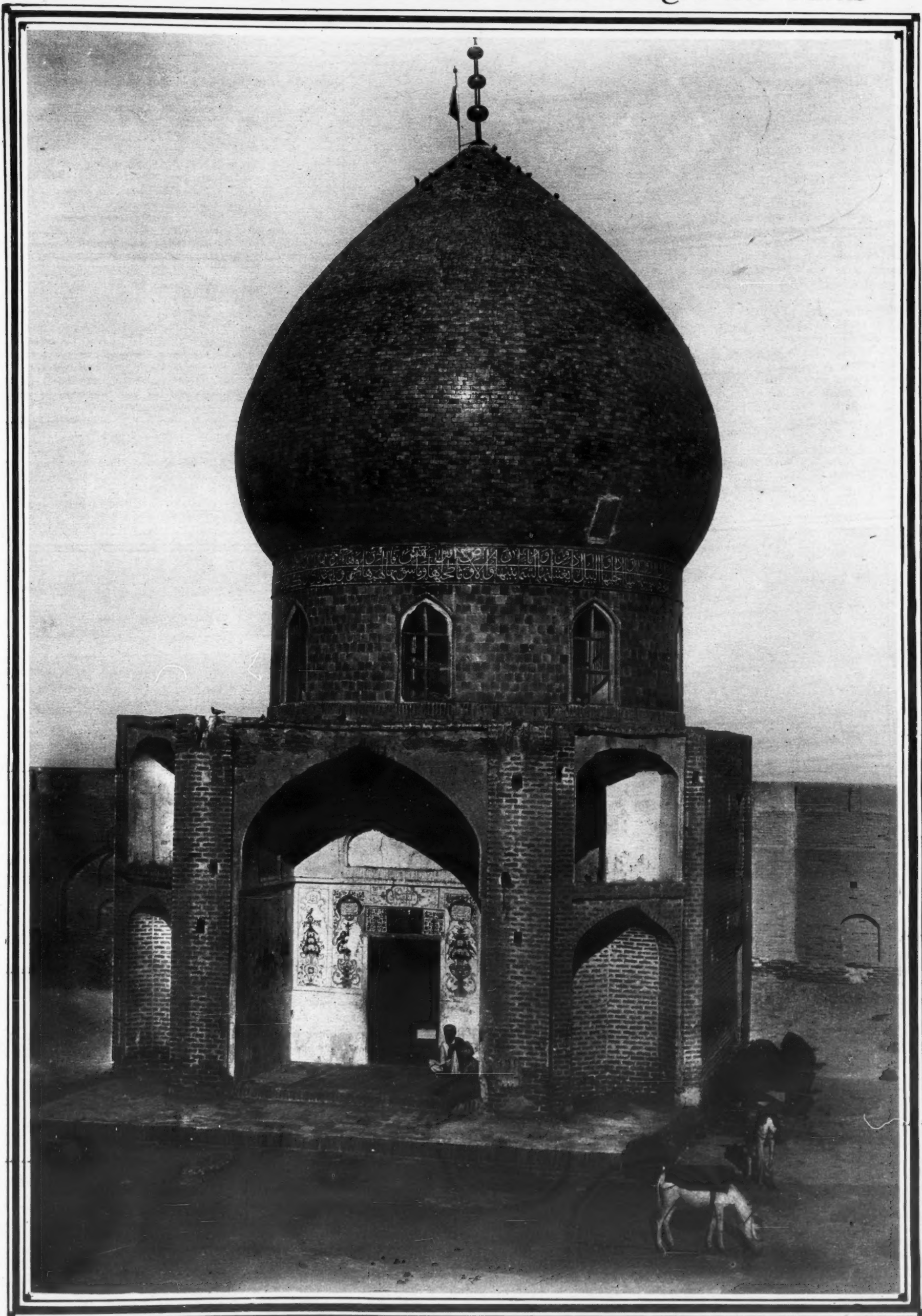
The Armenian plateau is made up of immensely fertile stretches of well-

tilled land, with grass-covered hills dividing plain from plain. And in these exceedingly fertile garden reaches between the hills there have been, since immemorial ages, groups of flourishing cities with traditions and dynasties reaching back to the very dawn of time; so that, for archaeologists, the region between Lake Van and Erzerum is as interesting in its way as ancient Egypt itself. And these great cities, both in ancient times and in the great mediaeval period which brought forth the Arabian Nights, had a flourishing interstate

sheid's hard-pressed force south of Bagdad at Kut-el-Amara, and the reversal of the balance of forces there. The occupation of the roads to Western Persia will in like manner mean the ascendancy of the Entente Powers there, and eastward as far as India.

But most vital of all is the road directly westward, the road through Sivas and Angora, in part paralleled by the Constantinople-Bagdad Railroad; the road to the Bosphorus, which the Russian troops are so eager to traverse. So that to untie the knot at Erzerum is an enterprise well worth Russia's very best efforts.

Ancient Van—Where Russian Forces Fought the Turks



The mosque at Van, an ancient centre of civilization in Asia Minor, where Turkish-Russian forces have conflicted. Van is a halting place for caravans on the way to Kerbela. The horse in the foreground is

carrying two coffins containing the bodies of Persians being borne for burial in the sacred earth of the Shiah Mecca. At Van the Armenians fought with Russians against the Turks.

The Quaint, the Odd and the Curious from the War Zones

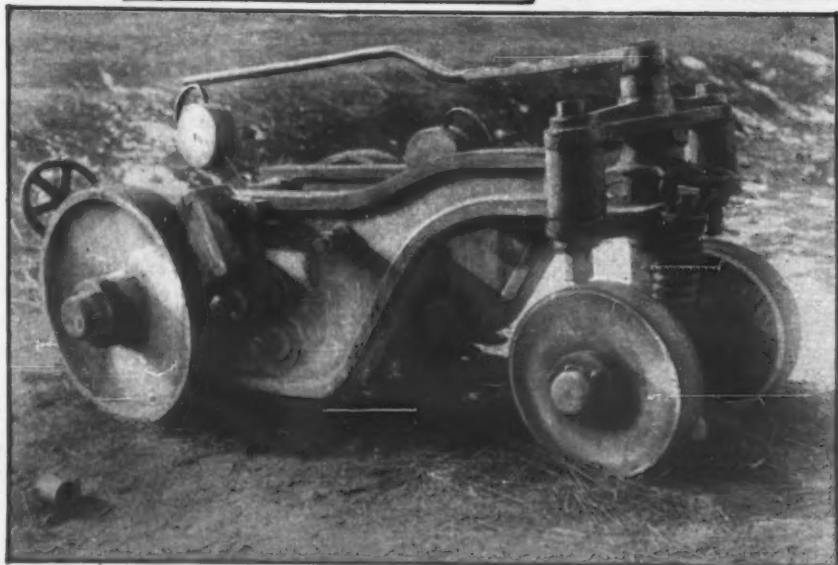


Bagged! A German soldier drives in an old Russian peasant suspected of espionage.

The cuff-extraordinary. A unique style photographed in the Russian Caucasus.



A dangerous trick of the Cossack; the sword-swallowing feat.



With this engine the retreating Russian tears up the roads behind him.



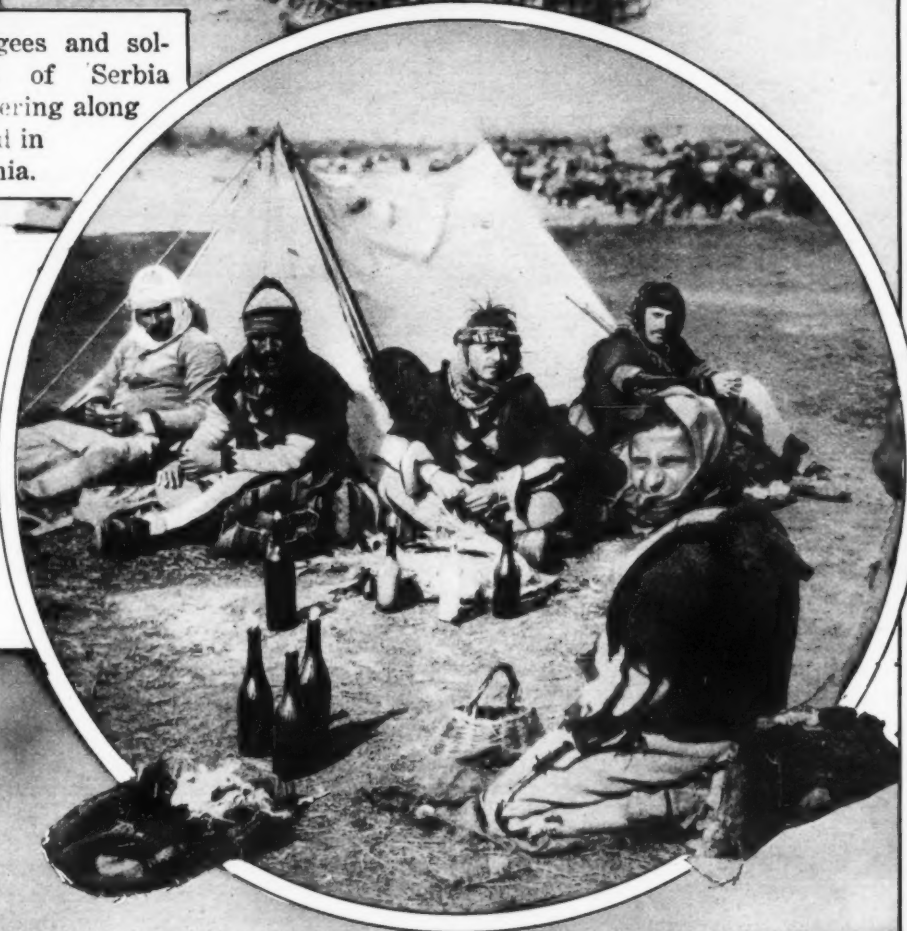
A trolley-ambulance for wounded soldiers from the French front.

(Photos from Underwood & Underwood.)

A Budget of Balkan War Notes



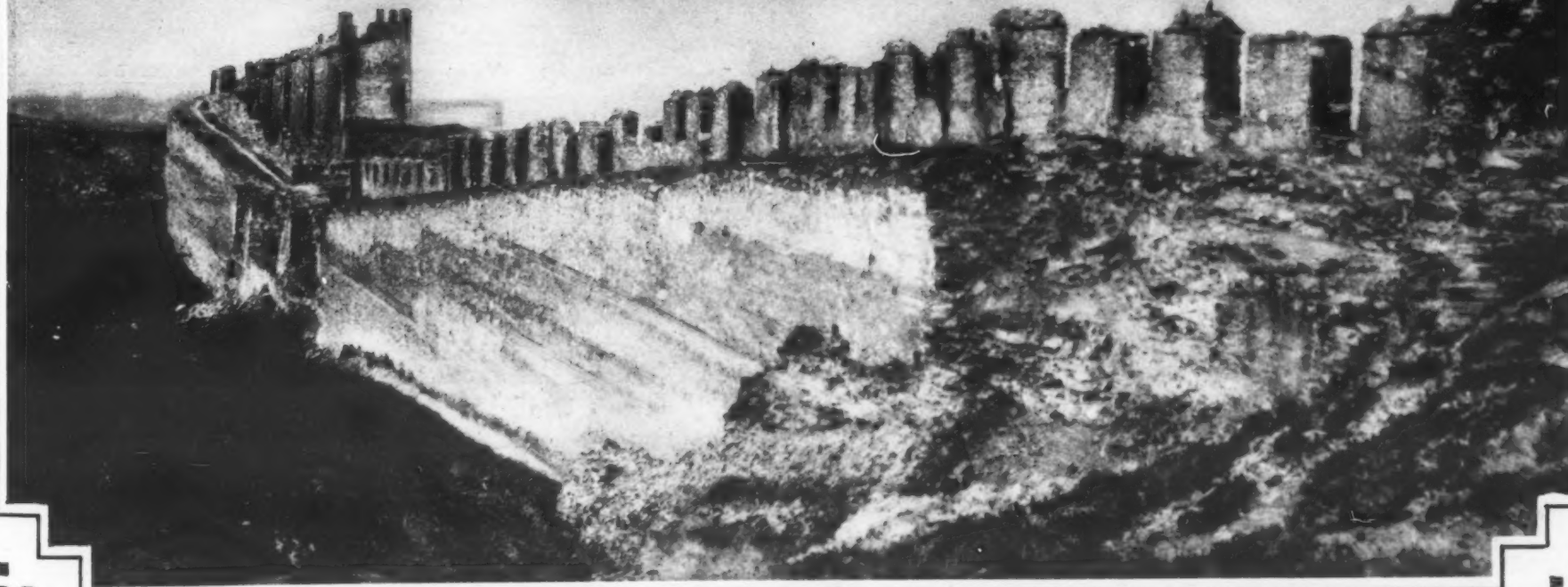
Refugees and soldiers of Serbia wandering along a road in Albania.



(In circle) Albanian camp on Lake Scutari.



(In panel) Mountain hut of Montenegrin gunners.



A part of the ancient wall of Saloniki.
(Photos from Underwood & Underwood.)



The Spirit of the Warring Nations Expressed in Popular Postcards—VI.



The Hero.

An oil painting by the Austrian artist, K. Pipich, reproduced as a postcard.



The Last Gunner.

A postcard printed in London, reproducing the drawing of the English artist, A. Pearse.



Their First Bandage (A Card from Vienna.)



The Last Cartridge.

By the Austrian artist, E. O. Braunthal.